

**TESTIMONY OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
  
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND  
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

**NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST L. D. 256**

**“An Act To Allow Nonresident College Students to Obtain Resident Hunting,  
Fishing, and Trapping Licenses”**

**SPONSORED BY: Senator Davis of Piscataquis**

**CO-SPONSORED BY: Senator Brakey of Androscoggin  
Senator Burns of Washington  
Senator Cyrway of Kennebec  
Senator Diamond of Cumberland  
Senator Hamper of Oxford  
Senator Katz of Kennebec  
Senator Saviello of Franklin  
Representative Martin of Sinclair**

**DATE OF HEARING: March 19, 2015**

Good afternoon Senator Davis, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Bill Swan, Director of Licensing and Registration at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking on behalf of the Department, neither for nor against **L.D. 256**.

It is reasonable to assume that this legislation, if enacted, would encourage some number of additional nonresident college students to purchase licenses in Maine. This is certainly a good thing. The only issue the Department has with this proposed legislation is that it will be difficult for the Department to effectively determine eligibility for this license. While college students are issued college identification cards, many of these cards do not have an issue date or an expiration date on them. Accepting these cards as proof of eligibility for this license will lead to some fraud which in turn will lead to some complaints and the subsequent need for Warden Service personnel to spend time investigating these complaints. The Department could certainly require additional documentation in order to issue these licenses (for example a copy of their transcripts) but this would be a significant inconvenience for those customers trying to get these reduced fee licenses. Perhaps, as a minimum, eligible ages, for example 18-23, would be an appropriate amendment.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time or during the work session.